ISSUE UPDATE
The Anti-cult Movement and Religious Regulation in Russia and the Former Soviet Union
Gayle Manchin
Chair
Tony Perkins
UNITED STATES COMMISSION on INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
ISSUE UPDATE: RUSSIA'S RELIGIOUS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS IN UKRAINE
By Dylan Schexnaydre, Researcher
Overview

ARTICLES

Overview of 2020 and 2023 Reports of the U.S. Commission on INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

October 18, 2024 · 16 mins read

Audio by ElevenLabs

00:00 22:13

1.0x

||ElevenLabs

Emergence and Development of Anti-Cultism in Russia. How Its Activities and

Rhetoric Has Influenced and Keeps Influencing the Russian Supreme Government Bodies and Contributes to Justifying Russia's Aggression in Ukraine

Excerpts from the 2020 Report of the U.S. Commission on INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM **"The Anti-Cult Movement and Religious Regulation in Russia and the Former Soviet Union"** [1]

"Alexander Dvorkin, a Russian anti-cult activist, had spent years lobbying for strong measures against groups he frequently refers to as 'totalitarian cults' and 'destructive sects'"

"The anti-cult movement, an international network supported locally by the ROC, the government, and concerned citizens, unites all these factors."

"Dvorkin brought many anti-cult ideas with him when he returned to a newly-independent Russia in 1992 to work at the ROC's new Department of Religious Education. He arrived in Moscow with a Ph.D. in Medieval Studies ***and began organizing a Russian anti-cult movement."***

Screenshot from the website of St. Tikhon's Orthodox University of Humanities [2]

Screenshot from the website of St. Tikhon's Orthodox University of Humanities

Screenshot from the website of St. Tikhon's Orthodox University of Humanities[3]

"In 1993, Dvorkin founded the Saint Irenaeus of Leon Information-Consultation Center (SILIC) under the auspices of the ROC and with the blessing of then Patriarch Alexey II. Almost 30 years later, SILIC remains the propaganda center of the anti-cult movement in Russia and maintains an online database of NRMs, as well as an archive of writings."

Screenshot from the website iriney.ru

Patriarch Alexey II. Screenshot from Daily Storm website [5]

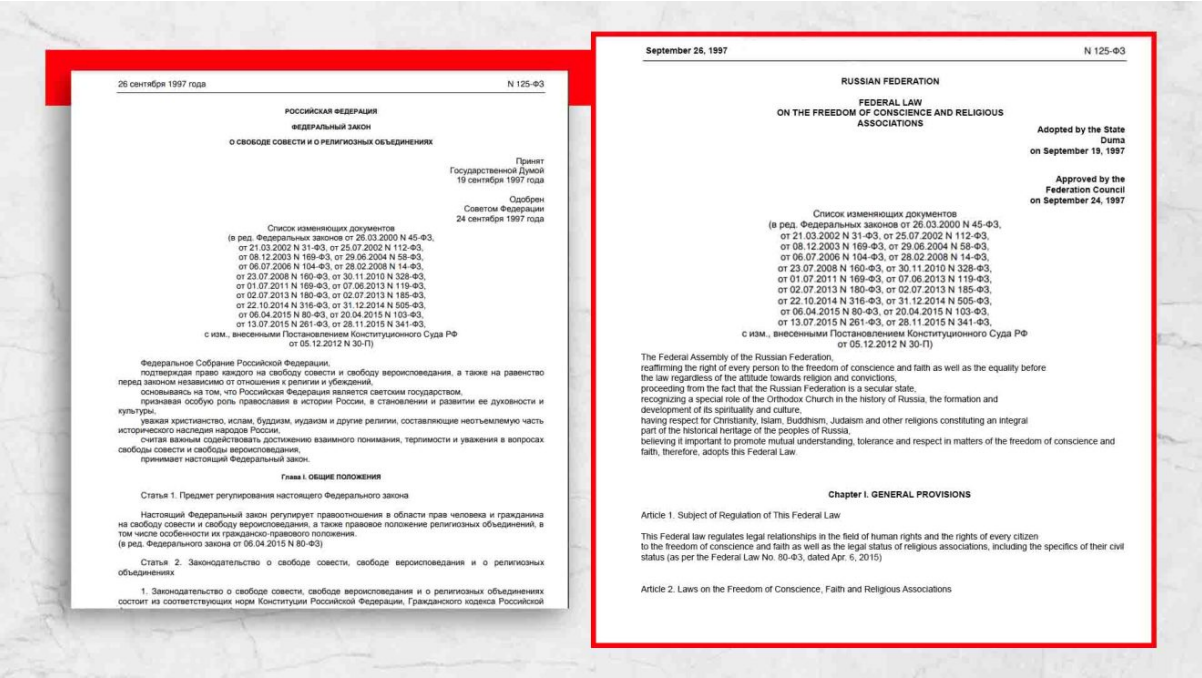
"Dvorkin has long provided the anti-cult movement with a veneer of intellectual credibility. Since 1999, he has taught Sectarian Studies at the ROC's University of St. Tikhon; yet, his degree in Medieval Studies provides no academic grounding in religious studies or the sociological and psychological concepts on which he so frequently relies. At a seminar in 1993, ***he allegedly coined the term 'totalitarian sect,'"***

"Such jargon, alongside other favorite terms like 'destructive cult' or the prefix 'pseudo' (as in pseudo-Christianity or pseudo-religion), ***reveals the anti-cult movement's pretension to standing as the final arbiter of religious truth."***

"On September 26, 1997, the Russian Federation passed Federal Law No. 125-FZ, On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Associations, which ended the state's permissive treatment of religious minorities and introduced regulations based on previous Soviet policy."

"The law was effectively designed to bolster established faiths and limit the spread of NRMs. The preamble acknowledged 'the special role of Orthodoxy in the history of Russia and in the establishment and development of its spirituality and culture' as well as that of traditional religions like Islam, Buddhism, and Judaism, which constituted 'an integral part of the historical

heritage of the peoples of Russia.'"



26 сентября 1997 года N 125-ФЗ

РОССИЙСКАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ

ФЕДЕРАЛЬНЫЙ ЗАКОН

О СВОБОДЕ СОВЕСТИ И О РЕЛИГИОЗНЫХ ОБЪЕДИНЕНИЯХ

Принят
Государственной Думой
19 сентября 1997 года

Одобрен
Советом Федерации
24 сентября 1997 года

Список изменяющих документов
(в ред. Федеральных законов от 26.03.2000 N 45-ФЗ,
от 21.03.2002 N 31-ФЗ, от 25.07.2002 N 112-ФЗ,
от 08.12.2003 N 169-ФЗ, от 29.06.2004 N 58-ФЗ,
от 06.07.2006 N 104-ФЗ, от 28.02.2008 N 14-ФЗ,
от 23.07.2008 N 160-ФЗ, от 30.11.2010 N 328-ФЗ,
от 01.07.2011 N 169-ФЗ, от 07.06.2013 N 119-ФЗ,
от 02.07.2013 N 180-ФЗ, от 02.07.2013 N 185-ФЗ,
от 22.10.2014 N 316-ФЗ, от 31.12.2014 N 505-ФЗ,
от 06.04.2015 N 80-ФЗ, от 20.04.2015 N 103-ФЗ,
от 13.07.2015 N 261-ФЗ, от 28.11.2015 N 341-ФЗ,
с изм., внесенными Постановлением Конституционного Суда РФ
от 05.12.2012 N 30-П)

Федеральное Собрание Российской Федерации,
подтверждая право каждого на свободу совести и свободу вероисповедания, а также на равенство перед законом независимо от отношения к религии и убеждений,
основываясь на том, что Российская Федерация является светским государством,
признавая особую роль православия в истории России, в становлении и развитии ее духовности и культуры,
уважая христианство, ислам, буддизм, иудаизм и другие религии, составляющие неотъемлемую часть исторического наследия народов России,
считая важным содействовать достижению взаимного понимания, терпимости и уважения в вопросах свободы совести и свободы вероисповедания,
принимает настоящий Федеральный закон.

Глава I. ОБЩИЕ ПОЛОЖЕНИЯ

Статья 1. Предмет регулирования настоящего Федерального закона

Настоящий Федеральный закон регулирует правоотношения в области прав человека и гражданина на свободу совести и свободу вероисповедания, а также правовое положение религиозных объединений, в том числе особенности их гражданско-правового положения.
(в ред. Федерального закона от 06.04.2015 N 80-ФЗ)

Статья 2. Законодательство о свободе совести, свободе вероисповедания и о религиозных объединениях

1. Законодательство о свободе совести, свободе вероисповедания и о религиозных объединениях состоит из соответствующих норм Конституции Российской Федерации, Гражданского кодекса Российской

September 26, 1997 N 125-ФЗ

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

FEDERAL LAW
ON THE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATIONS

Adopted by the State Duma
on September 19, 1997

Approved by the Federation Council
on September 24, 1997

Список изменяющих документов
(в ред. Федеральных законов от 26.03.2000 N 45-ФЗ,
от 21.03.2002 N 31-ФЗ, от 25.07.2002 N 112-ФЗ,
от 08.12.2003 N 169-ФЗ, от 29.06.2004 N 58-ФЗ,
от 06.07.2006 N 104-ФЗ, от 28.02.2008 N 14-ФЗ,
от 23.07.2008 N 160-ФЗ, от 30.11.2010 N 328-ФЗ,
от 01.07.2011 N 169-ФЗ, от 07.06.2013 N 119-ФЗ,
от 02.07.2013 N 180-ФЗ, от 02.07.2013 N 185-ФЗ,
от 22.10.2014 N 316-ФЗ, от 31.12.2014 N 505-ФЗ,
от 06.04.2015 N 80-ФЗ, от 20.04.2015 N 103-ФЗ,
от 13.07.2015 N 261-ФЗ, от 28.11.2015 N 341-ФЗ,
с изм., внесенными Постановлением Конституционного Суда РФ
от 05.12.2012 N 30-П)

The Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation,
reaffirming the right of every person to the freedom of conscience and faith as well as the equality before the law regardless of the attitude towards religion and convictions,
proceeding from the fact that the Russian Federation is a secular state,
recognizing a special role of the Orthodox Church in the history of Russia, the formation and development of its spirituality and culture,
having respect for Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism and other religions constituting an integral part of the historical heritage of the peoples of Russia,
believing it important to promote mutual understanding, tolerance and respect in matters of the freedom of conscience and faith, therefore, adopts this Federal Law.

Chapter I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Subject of Regulation of This Federal Law

This Federal law regulates legal relationships in the field of human rights and the rights of every citizen to the freedom of conscience and faith as well as the legal status of religious associations, including the specifics of their civil status (as per the Federal Law No. 80-ФЗ, dated Apr. 6, 2015)

Article 2. Laws on the Freedom of Conscience, Faith and Religious Associations

Preamble of the Russian law dated Sept. 26, 1997 [6]

*"**The rhetoric of the anti-cult movement and the Russian state have converged noticeably over the subsequent decade.** Echoing Putin's concerns about spiritual and moral security, Dvorkin claimed [7] in 2007 that NRMs deliberately 'inflict damage on Russian patriotic feelings.'"*

"In 2010, he gave a lecture entitled 'Totalitarian Sects as a Threat to National Security" to students at the Institute of the Federal Security Bureau (FSB)—the main successor to the Soviet-era KGB. In 2012, Putin claimed [8] that 'totalitarian sects' were 'growing like mushrooms,' and 'present[ed] a distinct threat to society' that needed to be addressed by legal mechanisms at both the local and federal levels."

25 ОКТЯБРЯ 2012, 17:55 • НОВОСТИ ДНЯ

Путин: Тоталитарные секты растут как грибы

Государственные структуры должны заняться усовершенствованием нормативно-правовой базы по контролю за деятельностью тоталитарных сект, заявил президент России Владимир Путин на встрече с губернатором Самарской области Николаем Меркушкиным и представителями общественности региона.

«Что касается тоталитарных направлений деятельности, то это то, что представляет особую угрозу для общества, для людей, это охота не только за душами, это охота за имуществом людей», - сказал Путин.

Президент согласился с мнением присутствующих, отметив, что «государственные структуры и на региональном, и на федеральном уровнях должны подумать о совершенствовании нормативно-правовой базы работы на этом направлении и о практическом применении этих нормативных документов».

«Обязательно это сделаем», - добавил глава государства.

OCTOBER 25, 2012

Putin: Totalitarian sects are growing like mushrooms

Government agencies should improve the regulatory framework for monitoring the activities of totalitarian sects, as Russian president Vladimir Putin stated at a meeting with the governor of Samara Region Nikolai Merkushkin and representatives of the regional public.

"As for totalitarian activity trends, they pose a particular threat to society and people. It's not just a hunt for souls, it's a hunt for people's property," said Putin.

The president agreed with the meeting participants' opinion, noting that "government agencies at both the regional and federal levels should think about improving the regulatory framework in this field and about practical application of relevant laws and regulations."

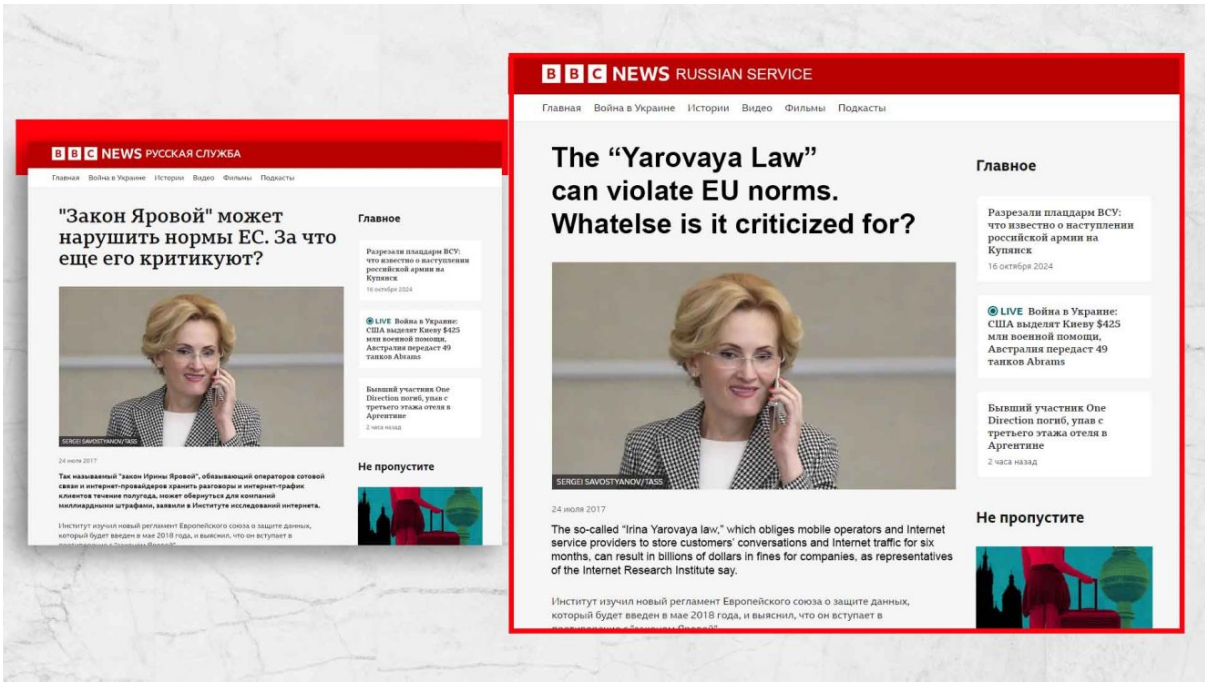
"We will definitely do this," the head of state added.

Screenshot from Vzglyad website [9]

"In July 2016, the Russian government adopted a package of amendments, commonly known as the Yarovaya Law, which significantly enhanced the scope and penalties of previous religion and anti-extremism laws. The law characterizes sharing religious faith, or extending invitations to religious services, as illegal missionary activity if it occurs outside of officially registered spaces (including in private homes or over the internet). The law enables the government to monitor private electronic communications in what observers characterized as a direct 'echo [of] the sweeping powers wielded by the KGB.'"

FEBC
NEW ZEALAND
ABOUT PRAY PROJECTS NEWS SHOP BLOG CONTACT DONATE
Russia's New Anti-Missionary Law
Share:
Related Stories
Fundraiser needed – FEBC New Zealand
A great job opportunity is open at FEBC New Zealand. Bring your fundraising skills, and impact the world!
Read More
Update from Eduard in Ukraine
..when we started sharing the results, several authorities were in tears ..
Read More
Do you enyoj pzulzes?
Puzzles to challenge your mind and inspire your heart.
Read More
Ukraine. A testimony of grief and gratitude.
A testimony of hope from Yana, a Ukrainian woman, suicidal and longing for her 18 year old son.
Read More
Russian Orthodox Church gives a medal to Irina Yarovaya, the author of the new law, for "strengthening moral and spiritual culture of Russia."
On July 7, 2016, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into law highly controversial legislation aimed at terrorism and extremism. However, part of the law harshly restricts missionary activity, which is very distressing news to Russian evangelicals.
The law restricts proselytizing in people's homes, where many evangelicals gather for worship and home groups, as well as on-the-street evangelism. What especially worries FEBC and other media organizations is that the new law limits media-related evangelistic activities, including social media and Internet postings. Laypersons will no longer be able to share the Good News without special permission.

Russian Orthodox Church gives a medal to Irina Yarovaya, the author of the new law, for "strengthening moral and spiritual culture of Russia." [11]

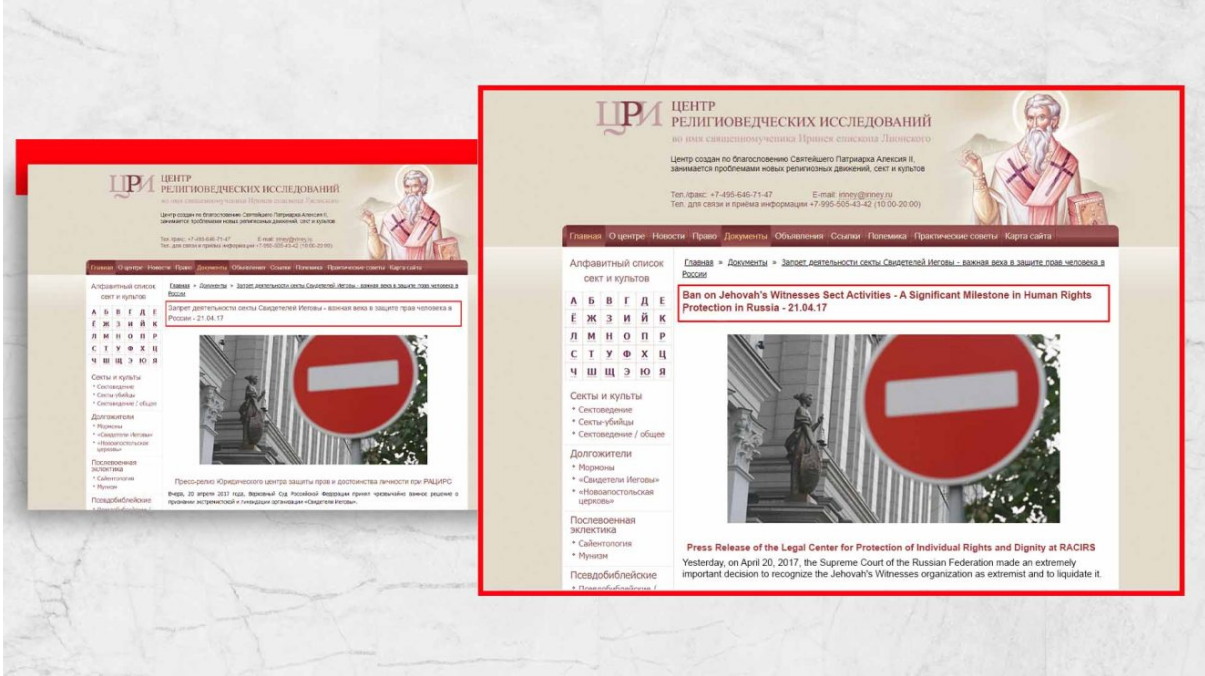


Screenshot from BBC website [12]

"On April 20, 2017, Jehovah's Witnesses became the first religion to be banned

outright across Russia, based on the accusation that the church was an ***'extremist organization.'"***

"Since that time, hundreds of Jehovah's Witnesses have been subjected to raids, investigations, imprisonment, and even torture. In a press statement released one day after the ban, ***Dvorkin and the anti-cult movement welcomed the decision*** [13] ***as 'a significant step towards defending the rights of all citizens of Russia and the Former Soviet Union.'"***


ЦЕНТР
РЕЛИГИОВЕДЧЕСКИХ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЙ
Главная
О центре
Новости
Право
Документы
Объявления
Ссылки
Полемика
Практические советы
Карта сайта
Алфавитный список сект и культов
Секты и культы
Долгожители
Послевоенная эклектика
Псевдобиблейские
Ban on Jehovah's Witnesses Sect Activities - A Significant Milestone in Human Rights Protection in Russia - 21.04.17
Press Release of the Legal Center for Protection of Individual Rights and Dignity at RACIRS
Yesterday, on April 20, 2017, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation made an extremely important decision to recognize the Jehovah's Witnesses organization as extremist and to liquidate it.

Screenshot from the website iriney.ru

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

THIRD SECTION

CASE OF TAGANROG LRO AND OTHERS v. RUSSIA

(Applications nos. 32401/10 and 19 others – see appended list)

JUDGMENT

Art 9 (read in light of Art 11) • Art 10 • Freedom of religion • Freedom to impart information • Forced dissolution of a Jehovah's Witnesses' (JW) local religious organisation (LRO) • Declaration of JW' publications as "extremist" • Not "prescribed by law" and necessary in democratic society
Art 10+11 (read in light of Art 9) • Freedom of expression • Freedom of association • Domestic courts' failure to provide relevant and sufficient reasons and to uphold adversarial nature of proceedings when declaring JW' publications "extremist" and prosecuting individual JW applicants • No balancing exercise conducted by domestic courts for dissolution of a LRO for using those publications
Art 10 (read in light of Art 9) • Freedom to impart and receive information • Withdrawal of distribution permit and prosecution of JW for distributing unregistered media • Declaration of JW' international website as "extremist" • Neither "prescribed by law" nor necessary in democratic society
Art 9 (read in light of Art 11) • Dissolution of JW' Administrative Centre and LROs • Policy of intolerance by authorities • Failure to act in good faith and breach of State's duty of neutrality and impartiality

Art 9 • Art 5 • Arbitrary criminal prosecution of applicants for continuing to practice their religion • Unlawful pre-trial detention of individual applicant
Art 1 P1 • Peaceful enjoyment of possessions • No legal basis for seizure of publications, immovable and personal property
Art 46 • Individual measures • Respondent state required to take measures to secure the discontinuation of pending criminal proceedings against JW and release of all imprisoned JW

STRASBOURG

7 June 2022

FINAL

07/09/2022

This judgment has become final under Article 44 § 2 of the Convention. It may be subject to editorial revision.

FOR THESE REASONS, THE COURT

1. *Decides*, by a majority, to join the applications;

2. *Declares*, unanimously, the applications admissible;

3. *Holds*, by six votes to one, that there has been a violation of Article 9 of the Convention, read in the light of Article 11, on account of the forced dissolution of Taganrog LRO and a violation of Article 10 of the Convention on account of the declaration of Jehovah's Witnesses' publications "extremist";

4. *Holds*, by six votes to one, that there has been a violation of Articles 10 and 11 of the Convention, read in the light of Article 9, on account of the declaration of the Jehovah's Witnesses' publications "extremist" and the prosecution of individual applicants and the forced dissolution of the Samara LRO for using those publications in their religious ministry;

5. *Holds*, by six votes to one, that there has been a violation of Article 10 of the Convention, read in the light of Article 9, on account of the withdrawal of the distribution permit and the prosecution of the applicants for distributing unregistered media;

6. *Holds*, by six votes to one, that there has been a violation of Article 10 of the Convention, read in the light of Article 9, on account of the declaration of the Jehovah's Witnesses' international website "extremist";

7. *Holds*, by six votes to one, that there has been a violation of Article 9 of the Convention, read in the light of Article 11, on account of the dissolution of the Administrative Centre of Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia and the LROs of Jehovah's Witnesses;

8. *Holds*, by six votes to one, that there has been a violation of Article 9 of the Convention on account of the criminal prosecution of the applicants for continuing to practice their religion and a violation of Article 5 of the Convention in respect of Mr Christensen;

9. *Holds*, by six votes to one, that there has been a violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1;

10. *Holds*, unanimously, that it is not necessary to give a separate ruling on the merits of the remaining complaints;

Russia,

14. *Holds*, by six votes to one,

(a) that the respondent State is to pay, within three months from the date on which the judgment becomes final in accordance with Article 44 § 2 of the Convention, the amounts specified below and detailed in Appendix II, to be converted into the currency of the respondent State at the rate applicable at the date of settlement in case of the applicants who are resident in Russia:

(i) the amounts claimed, plus any tax that may be chargeable, in respect of pecuniary damage;

(ii) EUR 15,000 (fifteen thousand euros) each to the individual applicants who were convicted in criminal proceedings; EUR 7,500 (seven thousand five hundred euros) each to the liquidated or banned applicant organisations and congregations and to the applicants who were convicted in administrative proceedings; and EUR 1,000 (one thousand euros) each or such smaller amount as was actually claimed to the other applicants, plus any tax that may be chargeable, in respect of non-pecuniary damage;

(iii) EUR 125,000 (one hundred and twenty-five thousand euros) jointly to all applicants in respect of costs and expenses, plus any tax that may be chargeable to them, payable into the bank account specified by their representative before the Court;

(b) that from the expiry of the above-mentioned three months until settlement simple interest shall be payable on the above amounts at a rate equal to the marginal lending rate of the European Central Bank during the default period plus three percentage points;

15. *Dismisses*, unanimously, the remainder of the applicants' claims in respect of non-pecuniary damage and costs and expenses.

Done in English, and notified in writing on 7 June 2022, pursuant to Rule 77 §§ 2 and 3 of the Rules of Court.

Milan Blaško
Registrar

Georges Ravarani
President

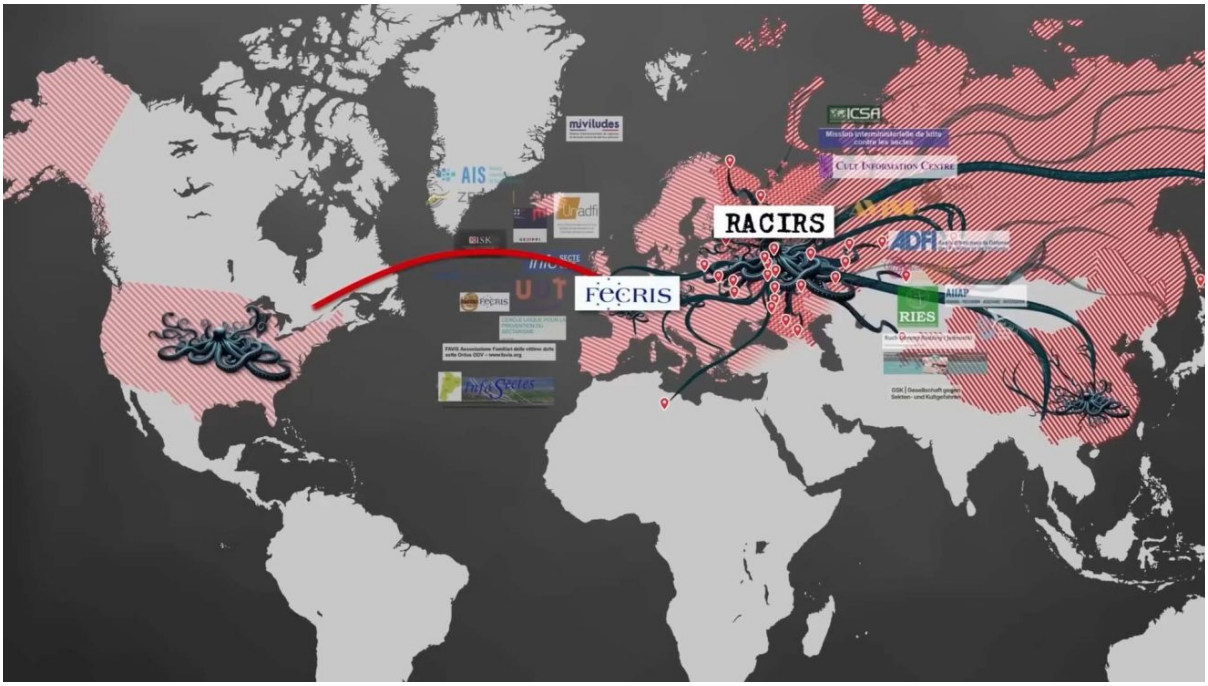
APPENDIX I: LIST OF APPLICATIONS

Note: asterisks indicate applications in which some complaints were declared inadmissible on giving notice to the Government.

No.	Application no.	Application title	Lodged on
1.	32401/10	*Taganrog LRO and Others v. Russia*	01/06/2010
2.	44285/10	*Gorno-Altaysk LRO and Others v. Russia*	23/07/2010

Screenshots from HUDOC portal of the European Court of Human Rights [14]

"Dvorkin's influence has also extended outside of the post-Soviet orbit. In 2009, the same year in which he was appointed head of Russia's Council of Experts, he also became Vice-President of the European Federation of Research and Information Centers on Sectarianism (FECRIS), a French anti-cult organization with pan- European influence. The French government provides the majority of ***FECRIS'*** *funding and the group* ***regularly spreads negative propaganda about religious minorities****, including at international forums like the annual Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Human Dimensions conference. Dvorkin's SILIC is the primary associate of FECRIS in Russia and receives significant financial support from both the ROC and the Russian government."*



Screenshot from "The IMPACT" documentary

On the Expansion of Anti-Cult Activities into Ukraine:

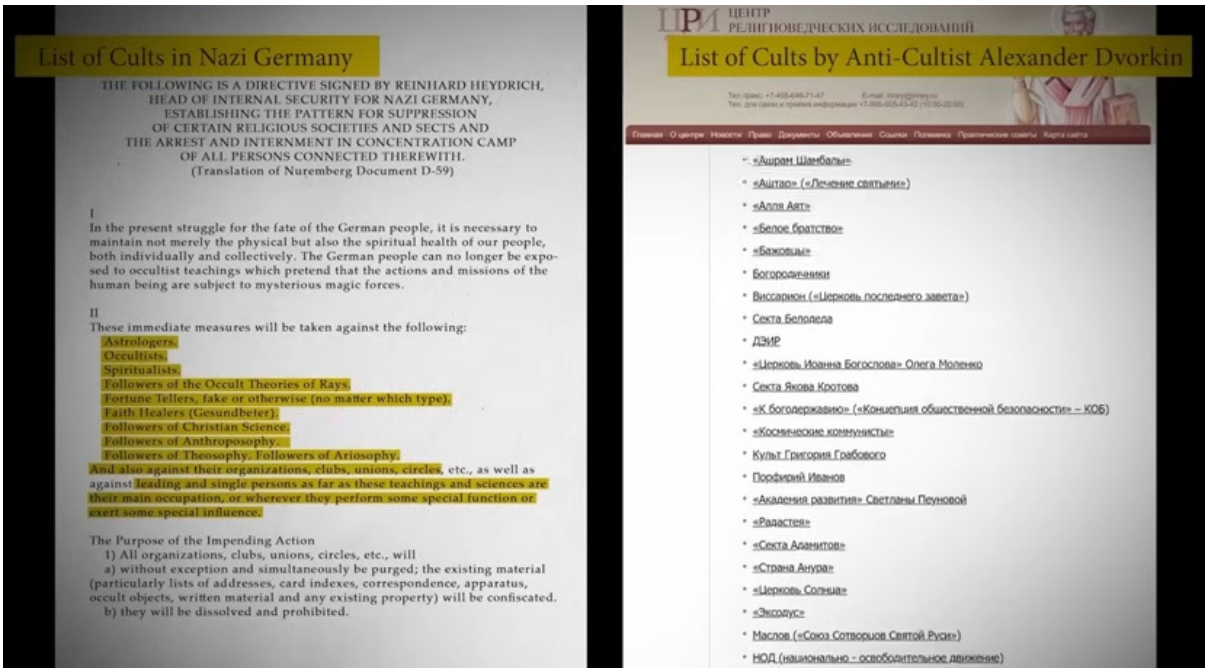
*"**Exporting Intolerance to Ukraine.** Russia brought along its restrictive religious regulation framework when it invaded Crimea in 2014, including the symbiosis between anti-cult ideas and national security. The occupation regime in Ukraine frequently has used religious regulations to terrorize the general population as well as to target activists in the Crimean Tatar community, the majority of whom are Muslim, and charge them with extremism and terrorism. Occupation authorities routinely arrest Crimean Tatars on such charges—usually for alleged membership in either Tablighi Jamaat (JT) or Hizb ut-Tahrir (HT), both of which are legal in Ukraine, but banned in Russia. In the Russian Federation, alleged membership in HT is frequently used as sufficient cause for charges of terrorism, even without evidence of any actual or planned violence. **Merely meeting to pray and discuss Islamic philosophy can result in multi-year prison sentences.**"*

"Since the Russian invasion, the larger Muslim community in occupied Crimea has faced persistent harassment."

"The anti-cult movement has had exceptional impact on religious regulation in the FSU, helping to raise the profile of ROC concerns about the spread of

NRMs to the level of a regional approach to so-called "spiritual security." It draws on fears about the shared totalitarian past to justify the imposition of repressive regulations derived from it, trampling on basic rights while simultaneously claiming to defend them. Alexander Dvorkin and his associates have carved out influential roles in government and society, shaping the public discourse on religion across numerous countries. Claiming to be experts in academic fields like religious studies, psychology, and sociology, they are rarely qualified in any of them and often rely on discredited theories and methodologies to promote their ideological agenda. The official prominence of the anti-cult movement has coincided with, and arguably helped to facilitate, the official fortunes of the ROC."

"The anti-cult movement is fundamentally a propaganda outlet conducting a highly effective information war against religious minorities throughout Russia and many of the countries in which it retains influence."

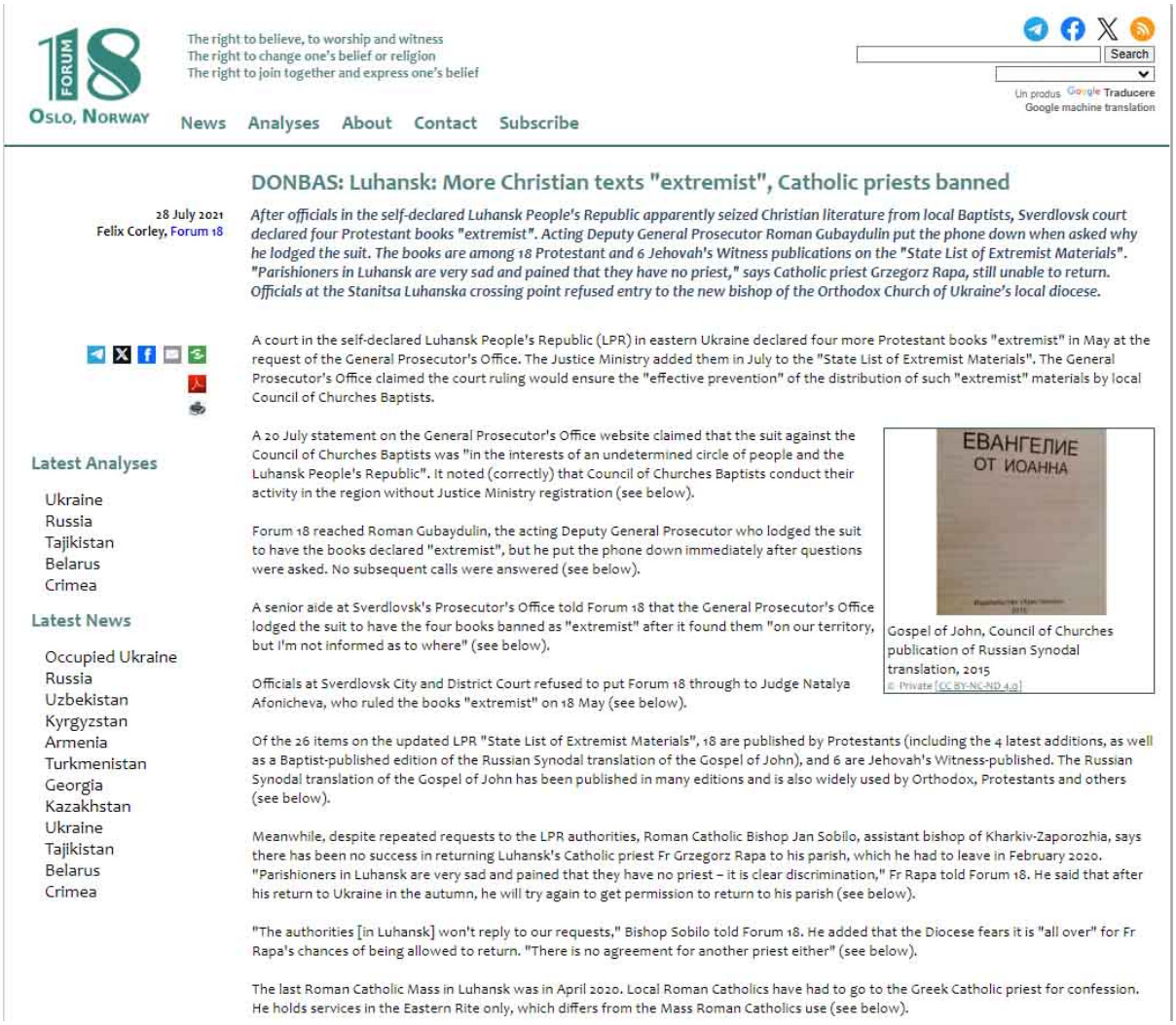

List of Cults in Nazi Germany
THE FOLLOWING IS A DIRECTIVE SIGNED BY REINHARD HEYDRICH, HEAD OF INTERNAL SECURITY FOR NAZI GERMANY, ESTABLISHING THE PATTERN FOR SUPPRESSION OF CERTAIN RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES AND SECTS AND THE ARREST AND INTERNMENT IN CONCENTRATION CAMP OF ALL PERSONS CONNECTED THEREWITH.
(Translation of Nuremberg Document D-59)
I
In the present struggle for the fate of the German people, it is necessary to maintain not merely the physical but also the spiritual health of our people, both individually and collectively. The German people can no longer be exposed to occultist teachings which pretend that the actions and missions of the human being are subject to mysterious magic forces.
II
These immediate measures will be taken against the following:
Astrologers.
Occultists.
Spiritualists.
Followers of the Occult Theories of Rays.
Fortune Tellers, fake or otherwise (no matter which type).
Faith Healers (Gesundbeter).
Followers of Christian Science.
Followers of Anthroposophy.
Followers of Theosophy. Followers of Ariosophy.
And also against their organizations, clubs, unions, circles, etc., as well as against leading and single persons as far as these teachings and sciences are their main occupation, or wherever they perform some special function or exert some special influence.
The Purpose of the Impending Action
1) All organizations, clubs, unions, circles, etc., will
a) without exception and simultaneously be purged; the existing material (particularly lists of addresses, card indexes, correspondence, apparatus, occult objects, written material and any existing property) will be confiscated.
b) they will be dissolved and prohibited.
ЦЕНТР РЕЛИГИОВЕДЧЕСКИХ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЙ
List of Cults by Anti-Cultist Alexander Dvorkin
«Ашрам Шамбалы»
«Аштар» («Лечение святыми»)
«Аллея Аят»
«Белое братство»
«Баховцы»
Богородичники
Виссарион («Церковь последнего завета»)
Секта Белолела
ДЭИР
«Церковь Иоанна Богослова» Олега Моленко
Секта Якова Кротова
«К боголержавию» («Концепция общественной безопасности» – КОБ)
«Космические коммунисты»
Культ Григория Грабового
Порфирий Иванов
«Академия развития» Светланы Пеуновой
«Радастея»
«Секта Адамитов»
«Страна Ануры»
«Церковь Солнца»
«Эксодус»
Маслов («Союз Сотворцов Святой Руси»)
НОД (национально - освободительное движение)

Screenshot from "The IMPACT" documentary. The list of undesirable organizations on the CRS website (main website of RACIRS) significantly exceeds the list of stigmatized organizations on the lists of German Nazis

Excerpts from the 2023 Report of the U.S. Commission on INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM "ISSUE UPDATE: RUSSIA'S RELIGIOUS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS IN UKRAINE" [15] that sheds light on the consequences of the

impact of anti-cult activities originated in Russia (as described in the 2020 report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom) on the territory of Ukraine

"In the years following, Russian-installed authorities in Crimea and Donbas imposed repressive Russian laws that severely curtailed religious freedom and targeted religious minorities. Officials banned religious literature and prohibited certain forms of religious activities and speech. They also outlawed entire religious groups either by depriving them of legal registration or declaring them 'extremist' or 'terrorist,' despite the fact they had peacefully and legally practiced their religion in Ukraine for years.



FORUM 18
OSLO, NORWAY

The right to believe, to worship and witness
The right to change one's belief or religion
The right to join together and express one's belief

News Analyses About Contact Subscribe

Search

Un produs Google Traducere
Google machine translation

DONBAS: Luhansk: More Christian texts "extremist", Catholic priests banned

28 July 2021
Felix Corley, Forum 18

After officials in the self-declared Luhansk People's Republic apparently seized Christian literature from local Baptists, Sverdlovsk court declared four Protestant books "extremist". Acting Deputy General Prosecutor Roman Gubaydulin put the phone down when asked why he lodged the suit. The books are among 18 Protestant and 6 Jehovah's Witness publications on the "State List of Extremist Materials". "Parishioners in Luhansk are very sad and pained that they have no priest," says Catholic priest Grzegorz Rapa, still unable to return. Officials at the Stanitsa Luhanska crossing point refused entry to the new bishop of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine's local diocese.

A court in the self-declared Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) in eastern Ukraine declared four more Protestant books "extremist" in May at the request of the General Prosecutor's Office. The Justice Ministry added them in July to the "State List of Extremist Materials". The General Prosecutor's Office claimed the court ruling would ensure the "effective prevention" of the distribution of such "extremist" materials by local Council of Churches Baptists.

A 20 July statement on the General Prosecutor's Office website claimed that the suit against the Council of Churches Baptists was "in the interests of an undetermined circle of people and the Luhansk People's Republic". It noted (correctly) that Council of Churches Baptists conduct their activity in the region without Justice Ministry registration (see below).

Forum 18 reached Roman Gubaydulin, the acting Deputy General Prosecutor who lodged the suit to have the books declared "extremist", but he put the phone down immediately after questions were asked. No subsequent calls were answered (see below).

A senior aide at Sverdlovsk's Prosecutor's Office told Forum 18 that the General Prosecutor's Office lodged the suit to have the four books banned as "extremist" after it found them "on our territory, but I'm not informed as to where" (see below).

Officials at Sverdlovsk City and District Court refused to put Forum 18 through to Judge Natalya Afonicheva, who ruled the books "extremist" on 18 May (see below).

Gospel of John, Council of Churches publication of Russian Synodal translation, 2015
© Private [CC BY-NC-ND 4.0]

Of the 26 items on the updated LPR "State List of Extremist Materials", 18 are published by Protestants (including the 4 latest additions, as well as a Baptist-published edition of the Russian Synodal translation of the Gospel of John), and 6 are Jehovah's Witness-published. The Russian Synodal translation of the Gospel of John has been published in many editions and is also widely used by Orthodox, Protestants and others (see below).

Meanwhile, despite repeated requests to the LPR authorities, Roman Catholic Bishop Jan Sobilo, assistant bishop of Kharkiv-Zaporozhia, says there has been no success in returning Luhansk's Catholic priest Fr Grzegorz Rapa to his parish, which he had to leave in February 2020. "Parishioners in Luhansk are very sad and pained that they have no priest – it is clear discrimination," Fr Rapa told Forum 18. He said that after his return to Ukraine in the autumn, he will try again to get permission to return to his parish (see below).

"The authorities [in Luhansk] won't reply to our requests," Bishop Sobilo told Forum 18. He added that the Diocese fears it is "all over" for Fr Rapa's chances of being allowed to return. "There is no agreement for another priest either" (see below).

The last Roman Catholic Mass in Luhansk was in April 2020. Local Roman Catholics have had to go to the Greek Catholic priest for confession. He holds services in the Eastern Rite only, which differs from the Mass Roman Catholics use (see below).

Latest Analyses
Ukraine
Russia
Tajikistan
Belarus
Crimea

Latest News
Occupied Ukraine
Russia
Uzbekistan
Kyrgyzstan
Armenia
Turkmenistan
Georgia
Kazakhstan
Ukraine
Tajikistan
Belarus
Crimea

Screenshot from "Forum 18" website [16]

Since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, its military has dismantled religious life and stifled religious diversity

throughout other parts of Ukraine. On the frontlines of the war, Russian artillery and military forces frequently damaged and destroyed religious buildings and other sites and killed or injured those sheltering or worshiping in these places. In areas under Russian control, de-facto authorities have abducted and tortured religious leaders and enforced the same repressive Russian legal mechanisms that were instituted in Crimea and Donbas. Furthermore, official Russian state discourse justifying and supporting the war has frequently resorted to rhetoric demonizing Jews, distorting the Holocaust, denigrating 'non-traditional' religious groups and the LGBTQI+ community, and characterizing Russia's unprovoked war of aggression in Ukraine as justified based on religion."

"Since the occupation, Russian de-facto authorities have enforced Russia's religiously repressive legal system that punishes independent religious activities and targets disfavored religious groups."

"Russia's extremism law grants courts broad autonomy to determine whether literature or groups are 'extremist,' therefore subjecting them to and various legal sanctions including literature bans, liquidation, financial blacklisting, or imprisonment of members who engage in the organization's activities. The law fails to clearly define 'extremism,' and the use of or advocacy for violence is not a prerequisite to be declared extremist, paving the way for authorities to prosecute virtually any activity or speech they consider problematic. Since the Russian Supreme Court declared Jehovah's Witnesses extremist in 2017, Crimean Jehovah's Witnesses have faced unjust prosecution for their peaceful religious activities. In December 2022, a court in Armyansk sentenced [17] two Jehovah's Witnesses to six years in prison for discussing the Bible over Zoom among other peaceful religious activities. In February 2023, the Yalta City Court sentenced three Jehovah's Witnesses to between six and six-and-a-half years in prison and another Jehovah's Witness to three years' suspended imprisonment for their religious beliefs. As of March, Russian de-facto courts in occupied Crimea have sentenced 12 Jehovah's Witnesses to imprisonment and two to suspended imprisonment, with five still under investigation." [18]

Documenting war crimes in Ukraine
The Tribunal for Putin (T4P) global initiative was set up in response to the all-out war launched by Russia against Ukraine in February 2022.

SIMILAR ARTICLES

New armed searches and arrests in Russian-occupied Crimea for reading the Bible

Seven Jehovah's Witnesses put on trial in Russian-occupied Crimea for studying the Bible

Ukrainian Jehovah's Witness sentenced for talking about the Bible in Russian-occupied Crimea

Six-year sentence for reading the Bible in Russian-occupied Crimea

Violent persecution mounting of Jehovah's Witnesses in Russian-occupied Crimea

New arrests of Jehovah's Witnesses, and record sentence upheld in Russian-occupied Crimea

Record prison sentence for Christian faith in Russian-occupied Crimea

Two Ukrainian believers sentenced to six years in Russian-occupied Crimea for a Zoom conversation about the Bible

05.12.2022

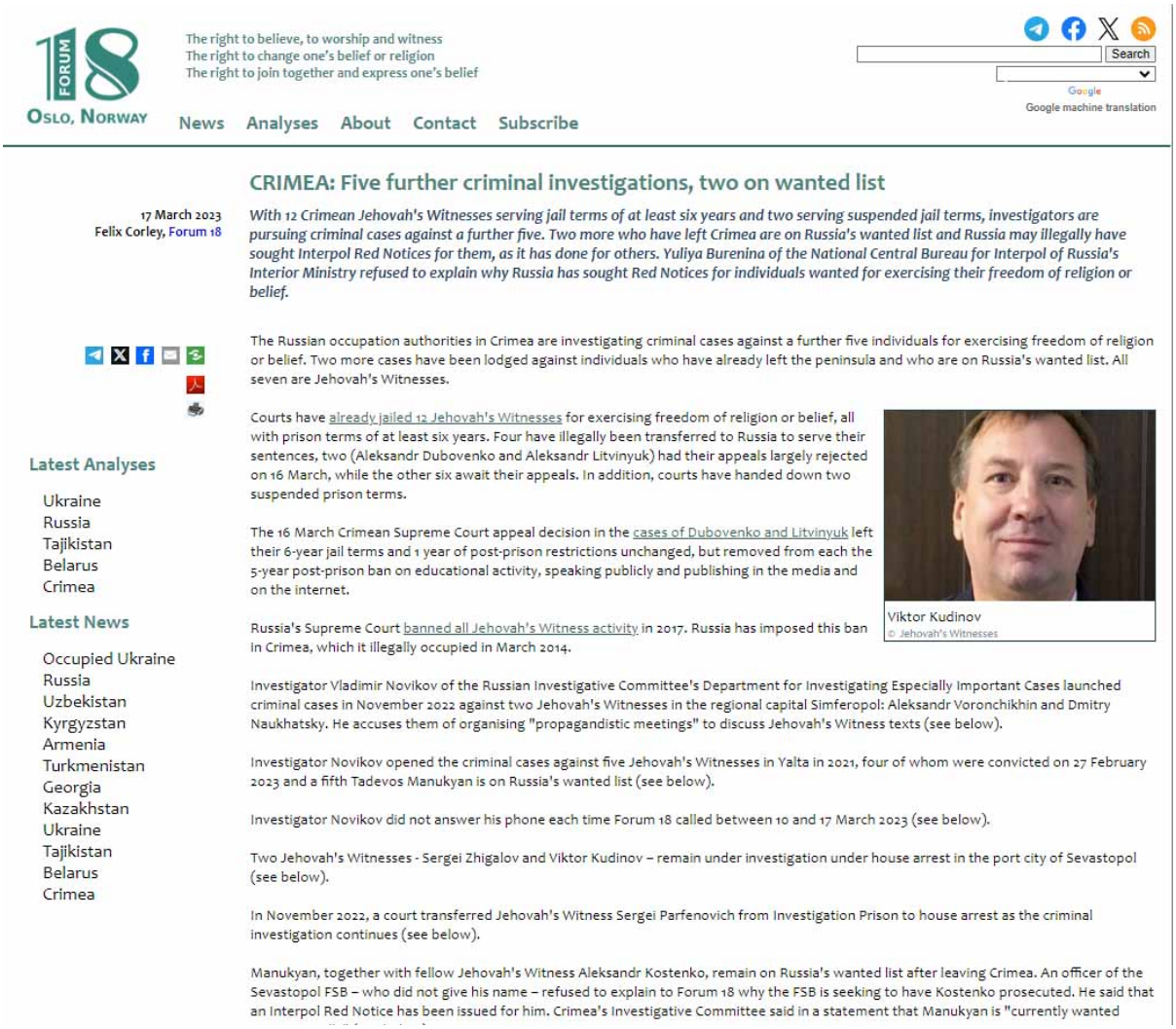
Halya Coynash

The Russian-controlled Armiansk city 'court' in occupied Crimea has sentenced 62-year-old Oleksandr Lytvyniuk and Oleksandr Dubovenko (49) to six years' imprisonment purely for practising their faith

From left Oleksandr Lytvyniuk and Oleksandr Dubovenko outside the 'court' Photo JW Russian website

The Russian-controlled Armiansk city 'court' in occupied Crimea has sentenced two Jehovah's Witnesses - 62-year-old **Oleksandr Lytvyniuk** and **Oleksandr Dubovenko** (49) to six years' imprisonment in a medium security prison colony purely for practising their faith. The prosecution's chief 'evidence' in this shocking new example of Russian religious persecution on occupied territory was a Zoom conference discussing the Bible.

Screenshot from the website "Human Rights in Ukraine"



FORUM 18
OSLO, NORWAY

The right to believe, to worship and witness
The right to change one's belief or religion
The right to join together and express one's belief

News Analyses About Contact Subscribe

Search
Google
Google machine translation

CRIMEA: Five further criminal investigations, two on wanted list

17 March 2023
Felix Corley, Forum 18

With 12 Crimean Jehovah's Witnesses serving jail terms of at least six years and two serving suspended jail terms, investigators are pursuing criminal cases against a further five. Two more who have left Crimea are on Russia's wanted list and Russia may illegally have sought Interpol Red Notices for them, as it has done for others. Yuliya Burenina of the National Central Bureau for Interpol of Russia's Interior Ministry refused to explain why Russia has sought Red Notices for individuals wanted for exercising their freedom of religion or belief.

Latest Analyses
Ukraine
Russia
Tajikistan
Belarus
Crimea

Latest News
Occupied Ukraine
Russia
Uzbekistan
Kyrgyzstan
Armenia
Turkmenistan
Georgia
Kazakhstan
Ukraine
Tajikistan
Belarus
Crimea

The Russian occupation authorities in Crimea are investigating criminal cases against a further five individuals for exercising freedom of religion or belief. Two more cases have been lodged against individuals who have already left the peninsula and who are on Russia's wanted list. All seven are Jehovah's Witnesses.

Courts have already jailed 12 Jehovah's Witnesses for exercising freedom of religion or belief, all with prison terms of at least six years. Four have illegally been transferred to Russia to serve their sentences, two (Aleksandr Dubovenko and Aleksandr Litvinyuk) had their appeals largely rejected on 16 March, while the other six await their appeals. In addition, courts have handed down two suspended prison terms.

The 16 March Crimean Supreme Court appeal decision in the cases of Dubovenko and Litvinyuk left their 6-year jail terms and 1 year of post-prison restrictions unchanged, but removed from each the 5-year post-prison ban on educational activity, speaking publicly and publishing in the media and on the internet.

Russia's Supreme Court banned all Jehovah's Witness activity in 2017. Russia has imposed this ban in Crimea, which it illegally occupied in March 2014.

Viktor Kudinov
© Jehovah's Witnesses

Investigator Vladimir Novikov of the Russian Investigative Committee's Department for Investigating Especially Important Cases launched criminal cases in November 2022 against two Jehovah's Witnesses in the regional capital Simferopol: Aleksandr Voronchikhin and Dmitry Naukhatsky. He accuses them of organising "propagandistic meetings" to discuss Jehovah's Witness texts (see below).

Investigator Novikov opened the criminal cases against five Jehovah's Witnesses in Yalta in 2021, four of whom were convicted on 27 February 2023 and a fifth Tadevos Manukyan is on Russia's wanted list (see below).

Investigator Novikov did not answer his phone each time Forum 18 called between 10 and 17 March 2023 (see below).

Two Jehovah's Witnesses - Sergei Zhigalov and Viktor Kudinov – remain under investigation under house arrest in the port city of Sevastopol (see below).

In November 2022, a court transferred Jehovah's Witness Sergei Parfenovich from Investigation Prison to house arrest as the criminal investigation continues (see below).

Manukyan, together with fellow Jehovah's Witness Aleksandr Kostenko, remain on Russia's wanted list after leaving Crimea. An officer of the Sevastopol FSB – who did not give his name – refused to explain to Forum 18 why the FSB is seeking to have Kostenko prosecuted. He said that an Interpol Red Notice has been issued for him. Crimea's Investigative Committee said in a statement that Manukyan is "currently wanted

Screenshot from "Forum 18" website

"Russian officials have dismantled Crimean Tatar institutions, subjected the community and its allies to harassment and intimidation, and arrested dozens of Crimean Tatar activists, journalists, and other civil society actors on the basis of their religious identity, religious activity, or alleged affiliation with Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HT), which is legal in Ukraine but banned in Russia. Since the Russian Supreme Court declared HT a terrorist organization in 2003, Muslims in Russia accused of belonging to HT have faced unsubstantiated terrorism and other charges related to their religious affiliation or activities, despite no evidence the defendants participated in, called for, or planned violence.

In February 2022, Federal Security Service (FSB) officers searched the homes of four Crimean Tatar activists and detained them for alleged HT activities, which included organizing and participating in meetings and discussing

religion and politics. Court subsequently sentenced Marlen Mustafayev to 17 years' imprisonment in November, Ametkhan Abdulvapov to ten years and six months' imprisonment in March, Ernest Seytosmanov to 18 years' imprisonment in May, and Ansar Osmanov to 20 years' imprisonment in June."

"Over the course of 2022 and early 2023, the Southern District Military Court sentenced a group of 20 Crimean Tatar activists who were arrested together in 2019 ***to prison terms ranging from 12 to 19 years for alleged HT affiliation****. At the time of their arrests,authorities reportedly planted and subsequently 'found' HT materials during searches of their homes."*

+38 (067) 343 74 54
+38 (044) 489 61 25
SHOP
News
Multimedia
Our Activities
Legal Base
Analitics
About Us
About Crimean Tatars
Special Projects
Home / Analitics / In the occupied Crimea, 89 people are being persecuted in the so-called Hizb ut-Tahrir case – CTRC
In the occupied Crimea, 89 people are being persecuted in the so-called Hizb ut-Tahrir case – CTRC
June 15, 2022
After the occupation of Crimea, the Russian Federation actively practices religious persecution on the peninsula. According to the Crimean Tatar Resource Center, 89 people are being prosecuted in the so-called Hizb ut-Tahrir case, 86 of them are representatives of the indigenous Crimean Tatar people. 55 of them are serving sentences in Russian prisons and colonies, and 30 are in pre-trial detention facilities, 3 have been released.

Screenshot from the website of Crimean Tatar Resource Center

"In January, the ***Southern Military District Court sentenced Crimean Tatar cleric and activist Raif Fevziyev to 17 years in prison****, and in May, the court sentenced Dzhebbar Bekirov to 17 years in prison and Zavur Abdullayev, Rustem Murasov, and Rustem Tairov to 12 years in prison each. All five had been arrested in August 2021 and accused of being involved in HT. Prosecutors used recordings of the defendants discussing religious issues as evidence during trial, with at least one of the recordings dating back to December 2015. In May, the Southern Military District Court sentenced Oleksandr Sizikov, who is legally blind, to 17 years in prison and Seiran Khairedinov and Alim Sufianov to 12 years in prison each for alleged HT activities, which included possessing religious literature and discussing religion and politics."*

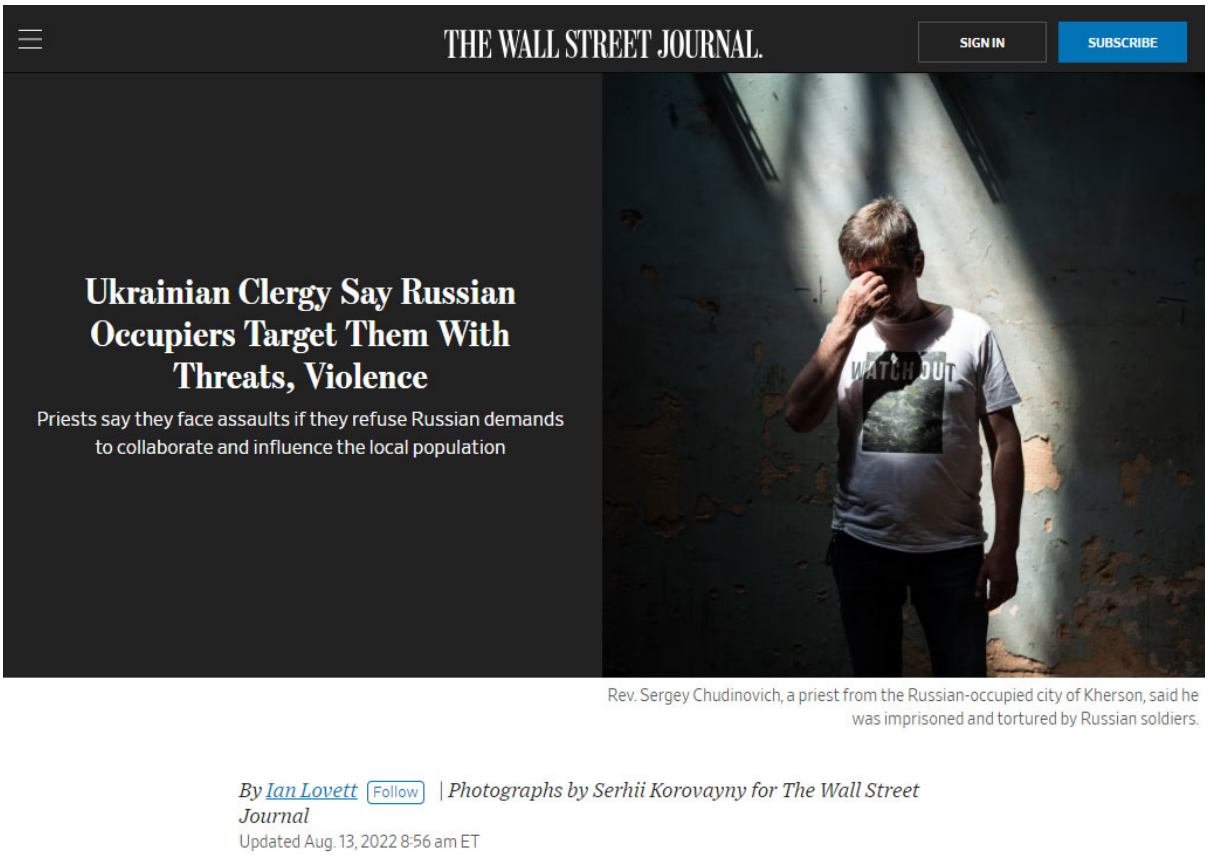
"Imprisoned Crimean Tatars reported medical neglect, being served food violating their religious dietary requirements, Qur'an confiscations, and inhumane living conditions, including rat-infested cells and a lack of access to beds, clean water, and sanitary toilet facilities. In February, Dzhemil Gafarov died in prison after experiencing chest pain, difficulty breathing, and severe headaches. Prison authorities rejected his January request to transfer to a hospital and had allegedly denied him medical care repeatedly over the years, despite his preexisting health conditions. In April, authorities took into custody Amet Suleymanov to begin serving his sentence, despite his serious heart issues. Authorities had placed Suleymanov under house arrest in March 2020 after accusing him of HT membership, and in October 2021, the Southern Military District Court sentenced him to 12 years in prison."

"In July 2022, men in military uniform in Lysychansk, Luhansk, reportedly seized the city's largest Protestant church, cleared out all the belongings, and turned it into a military administration building. That same month, they seized another Protestant church and reportedly told church members that the military administration has banned Baptists, Pentecostals, and Seventh-day Adventists as 'extremists.'"

"It was reported in February that Russian de-facto authorities in Mariupol had banned 'all Protestant and non-Orthodox churches' as well as non Orthodox holidays."

"Among these gross human rights violations and potential war crimes, Russian forces have damaged places of worship and targeted religious leaders because of their religious leadership roles. Russian military personnel have consistently threatened, exiled, detained, disappeared, tortured, and killed religious figures in order to exert control and influence over local populations. More than 30 religious figures, including pastors, priests, deacons, hieromonks, monks, nuns, and military chaplains, have reportedly been killed since the invasion. Religion on Fire, a Ukrainian project documenting the war's impacts on religious communities, reported at least 20 religious figures killed and another 15 kidnapped in the first six months of the war.

In March 2022, Russian soldiers in Kherson abducted OCU priest Sergey Chudinovich after he refused to allow Russian soldiers to distribute aid at his church. Russian forces kept him in a cold basement without proper clothing and beat, strangled, and attempted to rape him with a baton until he agreed to cooperate with them.


THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
SIGN IN
SUBSCRIBE
Ukrainian Clergy Say Russian Occupiers Target Them With Threats, Violence
Priests say they face assaults if they refuse Russian demands to collaborate and influence the local population
Rev. Sergey Chudinovich, a priest from the Russian-occupied city of Kherson, said he was imprisoned and tortured by Russian soldiers.
By Ian Lovett Follow | Photographs by Serhii Korovayny for The Wall Street Journal
Updated Aug. 13, 2022 8:56 am ET

Screenshot from The Wall Street Journal [19]

OBSERVATORY ON
INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE
ABOUT US
SEARCH ARCHIVE
PUBLICATIONS
REPORT A CASE
HOME / SEARCH ARCHIVE / ALL CASES
ORTHODOX PRIEST KIDNAPPED IN KHERSON, UKRAINE
Country: Ukraine
Date of incident: March 30, 2022
Sergey Chudinovich, an Orthodox priest from the church of Serhiy Chudynovych in Kherson, was kidnapped on March 30th. Three men, who claimed they were police officers, searched the documents of those present and then drove off with Sergey Chudinovich, who was said to be a well know public figure. He is one of the many religious leaders who has been abducted in Russian occupied areas of Ukraine.

Screenshot from the website of OIDAC Europe (Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe) 20

In March 2022, Russian forces detained Crimean Tatar Imam Rustem Asanov at a checkpoint in the Kherson region. They kept him in a basement where they tightened the handcuffs on his hands to the point of physical pain, suffocated him until he lost consciousness, and beat him. After releasing Asanov, Russian forces raided his mosque and confiscated religious materials they deemed 'extremist.' In another incident, the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine found that Russian soldiers in an unidentified region stripped a priest of his clothes, beat him, and ordered him to parade around naked in the streets of his village."

"In November, Russian forces in Nova Kakhovka, Kherson, abducted Evangelical deacon Anatoliy Prokopchuk and his son Oleksandr Prokopchuk

for unclear reasons. Days later, the two were found dead with signs of severe torture on their bodies in a forest near the city."

"Since the start of the invasion, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has verified damage to at least 112 religious sites. Religion on Fire reported at least 450 religious buildings—including chapels, churches, prayer houses, roadside crosses, kingdom halls, synagogues, mosques, memorials, monasteries, and religious educational institutions—were damaged or destroyed a year after the invasion, with the Ukrainian Institute for Religious Freedom reporting ***nearly 500 religious buildings and sites damaged or destroyed as of January 2023."***

"Between March and November 2022 in Kherson, Russian soldiers seized the Protestant Tavriski Christian Institute, burned its library, and used its facilities as a military base and crematorium for Russian soldiers killed in combat. Russian soldiers pejoratively referred to employees of the institute as 'sectarians' because of their Protestant religious beliefs and cited those beliefs as reasons to seize the institute."

Screenshot from the CRS website. Defamation and dehumanization of undesirable groups, initiated by RACIRS, subsequently ends with physical persecution of those groups. 21

How Russian Officials and Pro-Kremlin Military Propaganda Use Religious Language to Justify the Invasion of Ukraine.

“Russian Justifications for the War.

Russian officials and pro-Kremlin war propaganda [22] have justified the invasion of Ukraine with religious language, hateful speech, and distorted historical references at the expense of religious and other minority communities. When President Vladimir Putin announced [23] Russia’s ‘special military operation’ in Ukraine, he made unfounded comparisons of Ukrainian government officials with far-right nationalists and neo-Nazis. President Putin furthermore said the so-called special military operation would aim to ‘demilitarize and denazify

Ukraine' to stop what he falsely called a 'genocide' against Russians and Russian-speaking citizens in the country. While there was no supporting evidence to back President Putin's claims, his repeated references to Nazis and World War II have served [24] as a tactic to rally domestic support for the invasion by playing on Russian society's collective memory about the war and Russian suffering caused by Nazi Germany.

Russian narratives about World War II have always been Russian-centric; however, these narratives have often omitted facts or distorted history related to the Nazis' systematic, genocidal campaign targeting Jews.

When employing denazification rhetoric, high-ranking Russian government officials and representatives have frequently engaged in blatant antisemitism and Holocaust distortion as they tried to delegitimize the Jewishness of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who is Jewish and lost family members in the Holocaust. When a journalist questioned Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov about the seeming contradictions of 'denazifying' a country by removing its Jewish leader, Foreign Minister Lavrov speculated [25] that Hitler 'had Jewish blood, too' and added that 'wise Jewish people say that the most ardent anti-Semites are usually Jews.'

This statement coupled with denazification rhetoric perpetuated the antisemitic idea that Jews brought the Holocaust upon themselves. Additionally, in November the Russian Embassy in the United Kingdom posted [26], in a now deleted Tweet, a meme that featured an antisemitic caricature of President Zelenskyy. Russian propagandists on state channels have also referred [27] to Zelenskyy as the 'Antichrist.' In addition to antisemitism targeting President Zelenskyy, Foreign Minister Lavrov engaged [28] in Holocaust distortion most recently in January by invoking the Holocaust and Hitler to argue that Western countries were seeking to eradicate Russia and Russians just as 'Hitler wanted a "final solution" to the Jewish question.'

Denazification rhetoric moreover stood in stark contrast with Russian military actions impacting Ukrainian Jews and Holocaust memorials. In March 2022, a week after the outbreak of the war, Russian missiles damaged the grounds of

the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center in Kyiv which memorializes the site where 33,000 Jews were murdered by the Nazis in the span of two days in 1941. That same month, Russian artillery reportedly damaged a menorah at the Drobitsky Yar Holocaust memorial complex in Kharkhiv which memorializes a site where 15,000 Jews were killed. Relatedly, Russia's offensive has led to the deaths of at least two Holocaust survivors: Boris Romantschenko and Vanda Semyonovna Obiedkova. In addition to denazification, Russian pro-war discourse has depicted [29] the war as a fight against 'satanism.' In some instances, 'satanism' has appeared to refer to what the Russian state considers 'non-traditional' religious groups, including a Jewish religious movement. In October, then Assistant Secretary of the Security Council of Russia Alexei Pavlov argued [30] for the 'desatanization' of Ukraine, citing the degradation of traditional religious teachings and the flourishing of 'neo-pagan cults.' Pavlov specifically singled out as cults the Protestant Word of Life Church, Church of Scientology, Church of Satan, and Chabad Lubavitch [31], one of the largest Jewish religious groups in Russia and Ukraine. The concept of 'desatanization' in such instances condones the targeting and elimination of Ukraine's flourishing religious diversity and seeks to legitimize yet another historical antisemitic trope.

Other high ranking Russian officials have depicted the invasion of Ukraine as a fight against 'satanism'. Former president and deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council Dmitry Medvedev characterized [32] the war as a 'sacred' battle, arguing that the purpose of the war was to "stop the supreme ruler of Hell, whatever name he uses—Satan, Lucifer or Iblis." Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov has called [33] for a 'jihad' across all of Ukraine and went on to define [34] 'satanism' as 'openly acting against Russia.' President Putin has also framed [35] the war as a battle against the "radical denial of moral, religious, and family values" by Western elites and cited the "overthrow of faith and traditional values" as resembling "'religion in reverse'—pure Satanism." Such sentiments have been shared and amplified [36] by the Russian Orthodox Church under Patriarch Kirill, who has declared his vociferous support [37] for the invasion as a fight against sin and foreign pressure to hold 'gay parades.'

Sources:

1. https://www.uscirf.gov/publication/anti-cult-movement-and-religious-regulation-russia-and-former-soviet-union

2. https://pstgu.ru/news/main/faculties/professor_a_l_dvorkin_vystupil_na_zasedanii_protivosektantskoy_sektsii_v_khram

3. https://pstgu.ru/news/main/sostoyalas_prezentatsiya_knigi_professora_pstgu_a_l_dvorkina/

4. https://iriney.ru/

5. https://dailystorm.ru/news/patriarh-aleksiy-ii-blagoslovil-shiigumen-sergiy-obyasnil-kak-stal-svyashchennikom-posle-tyurmy

6. https://nbra.ru/index.php?option=com_attachments&task=download&id=267

7. https://iriney.ru/main/dokumentyi/totalitarnyie-sektyi-nanosyat-ushherb-patrioticheskim-chuvstvam-rossiyan.html

8. https://vz.ru/news/2012/10/25/604291.html

9. https://vz.ru/news/2012/10/25/604291.html

10. https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-yarovaya-law-religious-freedom-restrictions/27852531.html

11. https://febc.nz/russias-new-anti-missionary-law/

12. https://www.bbc.com/russian/news-40703706

13. https://iriney.ru/main/dokumentyi/zapret-deyatelnosti-sektyi-svidetelej-iegovyi-vazhnaya-vexa-v-zashhite-prav-cheloveka-v-rossii.html

14. https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{%22tabview%22:[%22document%22],

%22itemid%22:[%22001-217535%22

15. https://www.uscirf.gov/publications/russias-religious-freedom-violations-ukraine

16. https://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2675

17. https://khpg.org/en/1608811473

18. https://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2818

19. https://www.wsj.com/articles/ukrainian-clergy-say-russian-occupiers-target-them-with-threats-violence-11660377935

20. https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=5526

21. https://iriney.ru/main/prakticheskie-sovetyi/

22. https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/07/02/world/europe/ukraine-nazis-russia-media.html?searchResultPosition=4

23. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-02-24/full-transcript-vladimir-putin-s-televised-address-to-russia-on-ukraine-feb-24

24. https://www.wsj.com/articles/in-russia-nazi-is-the-harshest-insult-for-any-foe-and-now-ukraine-11645897323

25. https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2022/02/25/zelensky-family-jewish-holocaust/

26. https://archive.ph/yq32F#selection-2183.477-2183.759

27. https://www.jpost.com/international/article-723216

28. https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russias-lavrov-likens-us-actions-those-hitler-napoleon-2023-01-18/

29. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/21/ukrainian-holocaust-survivor-91-dies-during-mariupol-siege

30.https://www.state.gov/disarming-disinformation/disinformation-roulette-the-kremlins-year-of-lies-to-justify-an-unjustifiable-war/

31. https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-720658

32. https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/medvedev-says-russia-is-fighting-sacred-battle-against-satan-2022-11-04/

33. https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/10/26/kadyrov-calls-for-russian-jihadacross-all-of-ukraine-a79192

34. https://t.me/RKadyrov_95/3033

35. http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/69465

36. https://www.washingtonpost.com/religion/2022/03/21/russia-ukraine-putin-kirill/

37. https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-putin-religion-europe-moscow-0670305be2e010e02a4e195ced2b7523

Alexander Dvorkin anti-cult anti-cultism anticultsit global anticultism russian desinformation

PREVIOUS STORY
Europe, Open Your Eyes if You Don't Want War

NEXT STORY
Who is Tempus? Anticultism on Wikipedia Pages

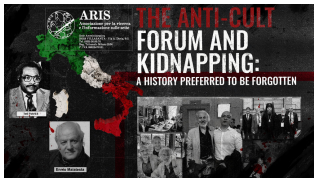
RELATED POSTS

October 23, 2025

"Prayer for Victory" as a Symptom of the Degradation of the ROC

ARTICLES

September 25, 2022, Patriarch Kirill (Vladimir Gundyaev) introduced a new prayer for mandatory daily reading in all churches of the Russian Orthodox Church — "Prayer for Holy Rus'" 1. This text, which quickly gained the unofficial name "prayer for victory," became not



April 5, 2025

The Anti-Cult Forum and Kidnapping: A History Preferred to be Forgotten

ARTICLES

The Anti-cult Forum in Italy, which once united several associations such as FAVIS, ARIS Toscana, ARIS Veneto, CeSAP, and "Giù Le Mani Dai Bambini" ("Hands Off Children"), has repeatedly denied its connection to violent practices, including kidnapping for the purpose of forcing

September 29, 2025

Expert Evaluation as a Weapon of Terror. Part II

ARTICLES

Beware of Dvorkin's totalitarian sect! The history of Nazism is repeating itself, only in a more advanced form. We are talking about a deliberate, planned large-scale sabotage against the foundations of statehood and justice, organized by a totalitarian sect led by the

January 27, 2025

Chabad-Lubavitch: Demonization And Persecution Of The Jewish Community By Agents Of Russian RACIRS In Russia And The U.S.

ARTICLES

Over the past few decades, there has been a growing number of acts of intolerance, incitement to hatred, and, as a result, violence against members of the Chabad-Lubavitch Jewish religious community. Discrediting materials published in various countries employ well-known defamation methods that

© 2024-2025 EXPOSING ANTI-CULT TERRORISM.
All material published on the site may be freely copied and used for distribution. When copying, please cite the source.

actfiles@proton.me